

more inveterate case of erysipelas than ever before, and no difficulty whatever has attended any of my midwifery cases.'

"I am assured, on unquestionable authority, that 'About three years since, a gentleman in extensive midwifery business, in a neighbouring State, lost, in the course of a few weeks, eight patients in child-bed, seven of them being undoubted cases of puerperal fever. No other physician of the town lost a single patient of this disease during the same period.' And from what I have heard in conversation with some of our most experienced practitioners, I am inclined to think many cases of the kind might be brought to light by extensive inquiry."

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*Cæsarian Section on a Dwarf.*—This case is recorded by Dr. CYRUS FALCONER in the *Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery* for May last.

The patient was only three feet six inches in height, with ill-proportioned form. When seen by Dr. F. she had been in labour upwards of fourteen hours; the left foot of the fœtus was presenting at the os externum. On examination, Dr. F. found that "the sacrum projected towards the pubis so as to give the superior strait the character of a *fissure*; the antero-posterior diameter being certainly not over one inch and three-fourths. The leg of the presenting foot occupied the full breadth of the fissure, affording an evidence but too conclusive that nature was not competent to the delivery. The os uteri was well dilated, and the pains incessant and severe."

The Cæsarean section was resolved upon, and executed in the following manner:—A somewhat oblique incision was made, "beginning at the upper part, near the margin of the linea alba, crossing towards its centre in the descent towards the pubis," this being necessary "in order to get an opening large enough to extract the fœtus." When the peritoneum was opened, much difficulty was experienced in preventing the escape of the intestines. The uterus being then divided, the fœtus was exposed, its back presenting to the incision. "Although," says Dr. F., "I began my incision considerably above the umbilicus, such was the relative size of the child that I found it impracticable to extract it, until I had extended the opening in each direction; approaching nearly to the cartilage of the lower true rib above, and the pubis below. During my efforts to accomplish the delivery, considerable extravasation took place. The relative size of child and mother can only be conceived by the reader, when he remembers the height of the mother—three and a half feet—and learns that the child was about the ordinary size, weighing, by conjecture, from seven to eight pounds.

"I at length succeeded, by grasping the thighs, in elevating the breech, and delivered the child, as in a breech presentation; it soon cried lustily, and was separated from the cord. The uterus now contracted powerfully, the placenta was expelled, the extravasated blood removed as much as possible, and we then proceeded to dress the wound.

"Four or five points of the interrupted suture were employed—long adhesive strips were applied between the sutures, leaving a space at the lower portion, for the escape of any discharge that might accumulate. A broad compress was next applied, and the whole covered with a broad, firm bandage, tolerably tight.

"During the operation, the patient made very little complaint; she now said she felt very comfortable, and expressed much gratification at being relieved by an amount of suffering so much less than she had apprehended. An anodyne was administered, and finding her, at the end of a couple of hours, still comfortable and inclined to rest, I left her."

Before morning, however, inflammation was developed, and the patient died on the eighth day.

"The child did well, and is now a vigorous, healthy, and well-formed little girl."

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*Influenza.*—This epidemic is, at the present moment, prevailing over the whole of the eastern and middle States of the Union. A very large portion of the population have been affected or are now suffering from it. In Albany a correspondent writes to us that four-fifths of the inhabitants have had it; and in

the city of New York it has prevailed to such an extent, we learn, as to seriously delay or suspend most business operations. Great numbers have suffered from the disease in Philadelphia, where it seems not yet to have reached its height.

So far as our observation has extended, the disease, though often threatening in its symptoms, has been extremely manageable.

Its onset is usually very sudden, sometimes with a chill, but most usually with the ordinary symptoms resulting from what is popularly termed having "taken cold." In most cases the disease assumes a catarrhal character—and then it is ushered in with coryza, cough, and very violent oppression of the chest; or the larynx is affected and the oppression is of a croupy character. In other cases rheumatic symptoms predominate, and the patient has the most severe pain in the back and hips,—lumbago and sciatica. In other cases again the head suffers most, and there is severe headache, injection of the conjunctiva, and more or less photophobia; whilst in others, again, there is hemicrania, severe pain in the ear, &c., the pains being of a neuralgic character, and these neuralgic pains are also experienced in some cases in the limbs. In some instances the digestive organs seem to bear the onus of the disease, and the patient has nausea, severe pain around the body just below the margin of the diaphragm, pains in the bowels, and occasionally diarrhœa. Finally, in other cases these affections are variously combined, at times one and at others another predominating, and even alternating in the same patient.

The pulse, even in the most severe cases, is little affected, the heart not sympathizing with the suffering of the other organs. The skin is generally warm at first, and sometimes dry, but perspiration is in the latter cases easily excited, and from the commencement, in most instances, there is very profuse sweating. The patient usually complains throughout the progress of the disease, of a feeling of lassitude and debility.

The disease sometimes runs its course in a few hours, in others it is protracted to five or six days, or perhaps longer.

As already intimated, the disease is very controllable by proper remedies. We have seen the oppression of the chest when most severe and threatening, and also the pain in the back and loins, promptly relieved by a mustard plaster. In other cases cups were required, which always were productive of the desired result.

In many cases a mild laxative, followed at night by a mustard pediluvium and Dover's powder, are the only remedies necessary. The cough, when troublesome, is relieved by the ordinary expectorants and sedatives.—*Medical News*, July, 1842.

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*Necrology.*—Departed this life, in Baltimore, on the morning of the 2d of January, 1843, after a sudden and very brief illness, Professor NATHANIEL POTTER, M. D., in the 74th year of his age.

Dr. Potter was a native of Caroline County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The greater part of his long and useful life was passed in Baltimore, where he early achieved the eminent position in the medical profession which he retained to the last, and to which he was justly entitled by his natural abilities and by his literary and scientific acquirements. Soon after settling in this city, he exerted himself, in association with the late Dr. Davidge and others, as one of the most active agents in establishing the Medical Department of the University of Maryland. In this institution, he filled with distinguished honour for more than thirty years, and up to the time of his death, the chair of the Theory and Practice of Physic. In private and domestic life, Dr. Potter manifested many amiable virtues which will be remembered with affectionate fondness by his family and friends. As a practitioner of medicine, he was remarkable for promptitude and integrity of judgment, and for the boldness and energy of his remedial measures. As a teacher, he was perspicuous and impressive, displaying in his lectures extensive knowledge and great practical good sense, rendering his subject pleasing and attractive by his native power of wit, and illustrating and enforcing his doctrines by the ample resources of a profound and elegant erudition.—*The Maryland Med. and Surg. Journ.*, March, 1843.